The Wonderful West Philippine Sea

with

PAWI

The Sea Turtle

We are grateful to the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute for its science, guidance, and steadfast commitment to understanding and safeguarding our seas; to the Philippine Coast Guard for its vigilance and tireless work defending the waters that sustain our people; to the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau for leading conservation of the Philippines' rich marine heritage and for guiding the DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service in bringing the idea of this book series into fruition.

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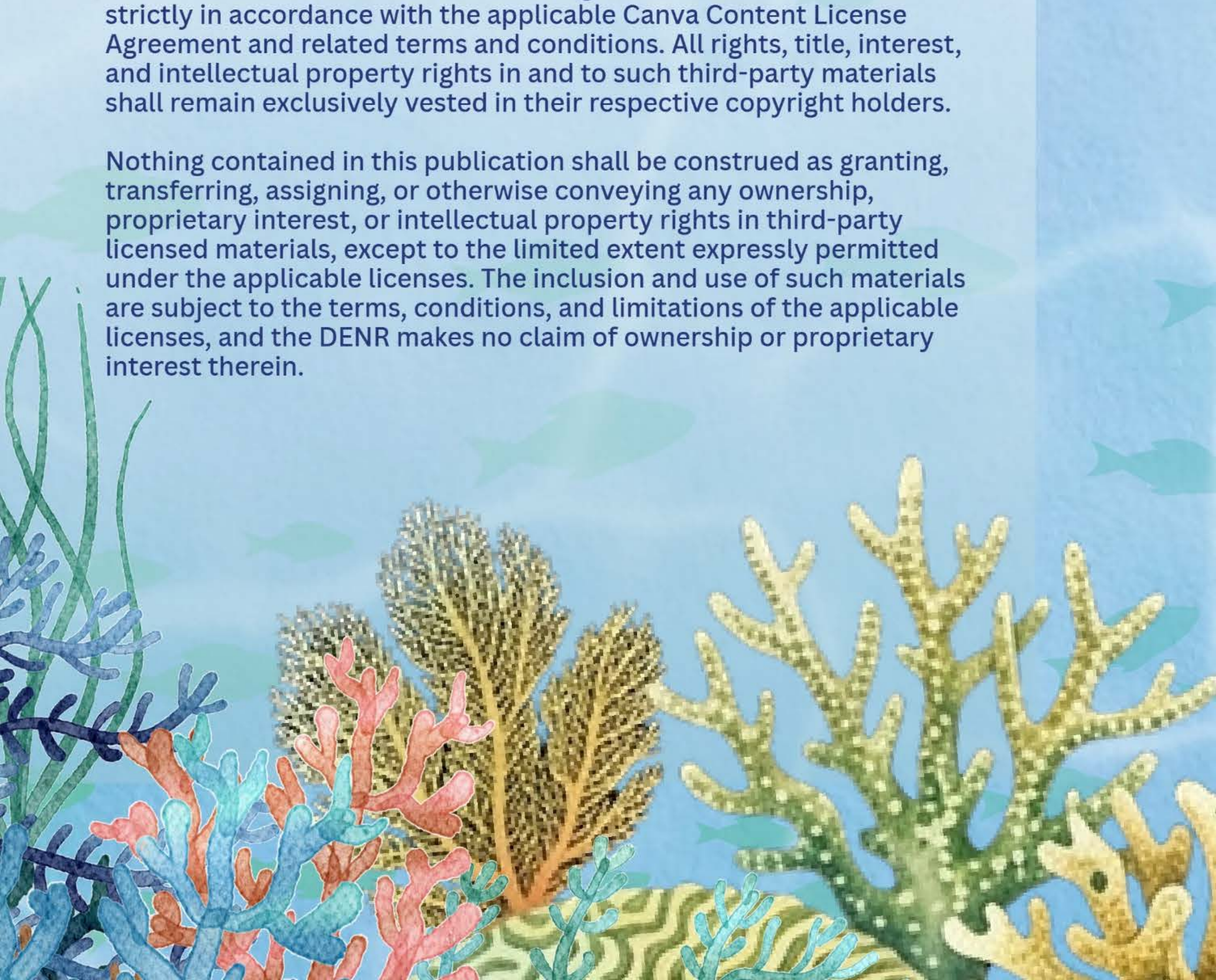

This book is for every child who looks at the sea with wonder; may it inspire them to explore the life beneath the waves, cherish our oceans, and remember that even the smallest acts of care help protect what is ours.

Come swim with me!

Hi! I'm Pawi, a sea turtle. I have a very special home called the West Philippine Sea. Would you like to explore it with me? Hold my flipper... Let's dive in!

Welcome to My Home!

The water is warm and blue.
Sunlight dances on the waves.
Everywhere I look, there is something amazing to discover.
This is the wonderful West Philippine Sea—my home and the home of thousands of ocean friends.

Come, come, let's walk on the beach to meet friends that protect my home!

My friends help keep my home a safe place for marine animals to eat, grow, and rest.

Let's visit my amazing friends!

Meet Mangrove and family!

Mangroves

Nature's Nursery

They sure are nature's nursery as baby fishes stay here until they are ready to swim into the sea.

Now, let's go further down where seagrass meadow also give protection to young fishes. Wow, this is also a special place where dugongs eat and live!

Seagrass Meadow

The Ocean's Dining Table

A Busy Underwater City

"Come closer!"
Can you see the colorful coral reefs?
Corals are tiny living animals that build
giant underwater homes. Fish, crabs, sea
stars, and many other creatures live here.

The Strong Blue Coral Garden

"Wow, what a beautiful blue garden!
Can you see the blue corals swaying
with the waves?"

Blue corals are strong reef builders that create underwater homes for many fish and sea creatures. They can live in places with strong currents, but they still need healthy oceans to survive.

Fun Fact! Blue corals are one of the oldest groups of reef-building corals and help create habitats in the sea.

The Gentle Giant

A huge shadow swims above us.
Don't be scared!
It's a whale shark—the biggest fish in the world.
Even though it is very big, it only eats tiny
plankton. What a gentle giant!

Look up!

Home of Many Fishes

The West Philippine Sea is filled with colorful reef fish including:

- Clownfish
- Butterflyfish
- Angelfish
- Parrotfish
- Wrasses

Many of these species live among coral reefs.

Meet Nemo's Cousin!

The clownfish lives inside a sea anemone.
The anemone protects the fish.
The fish helps keep the anemone clean.
They make a great team!

The Colorful Parrotfish

Parrotfish use their strong beaks to
nibble algae from corals.
As they eat, they help keep
coral reefs healthy.
Some of the white sand on beaches
even comes from parrotfish!

The Busy Butterflyfish

Butterflyfish swim among colorful corals. Their bright colors help them find friends and stay safe. There are many kinds living in the West Philippine Sea.

The Sea Stars and Sea Cucumbers

Not all sea animals are fish!
Sea stars crawl along the
ocean floor. Sea cucumbers
help clean the seabed.
Everyone has an important job!

The Clever Octopus

An octopus is very smart.
It can squeeze through tiny spaces.
It can even change color to hide from
danger.

"Look down! Can you see the giant clam resting on the ocean floor?"

The Giant Clam's Colorful Home

Giant clams have beautiful shells and help build safe homes for many small sea creatures. But these ocean treasures need our help because some are collected for food and decorations.

The Green Sea Turtle

Just like me, other sea turtles travel
very far across the ocean.
When we grow up, many return to the
same beach where
we were born.

Whew! That's one big
adventure, a great tour!

The West Philippine Sea is truly A Sea Full of Wonder!

"I love my home because it is full of life!"

The West Philippine Sea gives us:
Food to eat
Clean air to breathe
Jobs for many Filipino families
Beautiful oceans to enjoy

Every wave tells a story.
Every sea creature has a home.
Isn't our West Philippine Sea wonderful?

Every Ocean Friend Needs a Special Place in Our Home

I hope I've given you enough ideas about my home, the West Philippine Sea, my friends, and family.

Now let's see how well you remember my ocean friends and their special places.

Coral Reef

Baby Fish

Mangrove

Whale Shark

Seagrass

Butterfly Fish

Ocean

Sea Turtle

Let's Count!

Can you find?

☐ 3 clownfish ☐ 2 sea turtles
☐ 5 butterflyfish ☐ 1 whale shark

Add more colors to our lives!

Amazing Teamwork

I hope you noticed that every little thing connects to another thing on top of and under the sea – the mangroves, seagrass, fishes, and other sea creatures.

We even provide food to people.

That is why we need to care and help each other.

MY OCEAN PROMISE

I promise to:
Love the ocean.
Keep it clean.
Protect marine animals.
Share what
I learned.

Ocean Heroes

Many Filipinos work hard every day
to protect the West Philippine Sea.

Scientists

Divers

Community volunteers

Park Rangers

Coast Guards

Fish wardens

They help keep marine life safe.

Be an Ocean Hero!

Small hands can make a big difference.

Protect our oceans.
Protect our wildlife.
Protect our future.